

Warren.

Delegate Baldwin?

MR. BALDWIN: Mr. President, I move that debate on the Constitution of the new State of New Columbia be limited to 30 minutes, and without exception, that the two-minute rule be enforced.

(The motion was duly seconded.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: It has been moved and seconded that debate on the adoption of the Constitution be limited to 30 minutes, and without exception, that each speaker follow our rule of two minutes.

Discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: There being no discussion, those in favor, indicate by saying aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Those opposed?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Abstain?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Debate is now in order.

Delegate Shelton?

MS. SHELTON: Mr. President, Delegates, Officers,

Residents of the great Ward 1, it has been my pleasure to serve with you, and it will be my pleasure to cast an affirmative vote for the Constitution of the new State of Columbia.

(Applause.)

MS. SHELTON: I cast my vote based on 20 years of decisive work in this community in the interest of freedom and self-determination.

(Applause.)

MS. SHELTON: I believe that this Constitution reflects the views of the District of Columbia -- each youth of this community, each adult of this community who has labored in the vineyard of an effort to provide sovereignty for the District of Columbia.

I am particularly proud to associate myself with the Bill of Rights of this Constitution, and as you know, I am personally proud to associate myself with the Section on Freedom from Discrimination. For too long in the District of Columbia, the majority of the residents have had to labor under the problem of discrimination. In the New Columbia, Discrimination will be eradicated, and for the first time, those "who have labored so long in the civil rights field will

have an opportunity to serve the State without fear of discrimination and without regard for race, creed, or color.

I am particularly proud, in a community that is faced with unemployment that is rising and in an economy that is --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Your time has expired, Delegate Shelton.

MS. SHELTON: Thank you very much.

I am particularly proud to associate myself with a strong Constitution, and I urge each one of you to vote affirmatively so that we will have freedom and sovereignty in New Columbia.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: The order of speakers is: Simmons, Long, Street, Kameny, Harris, Johnson, Corn, Robinson, Nahikian.

Delegate Simmons?

MS. SIMMONS: It is my proud opportunity to notify this body of 45 Delegates that I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you, hearing you engage in the exciting creativity and thought processing of liberties, of sovereignty, and of dealing with the kind of justice and the kind of

ideal that being born in America would lead one to possess. I think it is appropriate that we use as our statement today -- at least, I should like for myself to use -- Dorothy Gilliam's creativity.: "All of the furor over the D.C. Statehood Convention because it includes a few unorthodox provisions in its constitution that the delegates are finishing today shows how resistant we are when people try to look at problems in a new way.

"When the framers of the United States Constitution dared to be different, we called them, 'Founding Fathers with foresight'. When the delegates from the communities of this city clash and wrestle with a constitution, we call them 'rowdy'. When the delegates wanted all citizens of the new state guaranteed jobs, many people called it a joke. When they approved expropriation by the state of private utilities, half the town cracked its sides.

"But we forget that the statehood delegates are hometown people addressing hometown problems. From their point of view, they are responding to the problems they see in their neighborhoods, where people are worrying about losing their jobs and schools that aren't preparing kids for the Technological Era and medical care and a decent roof over their heads.

"And what is being overlooked is that these are the same problems people are going to be seeing in other cities soon, because Washington today is a glimpse into the future of many other American towns.

"When this community clocks up a 10.5 percent recent unemployment rate, gathers long lines for cheese, cripples its population with government reductions-in-force and endures high interest rates that force some to lose their homes and others to lose their mobility, Washington today becomes a microcosmic American town of tomorrow."

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Time.

MS. SIMMONS: "When we struggle with a rising crime rate and schools that produce children weak in science, when we see the overnight disappearance of small businesses"--

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Time, Delegate Simmons.

MS. SIMMONS: Ladies and gentlemen, I trust that if you haven't seen this, you will, because here is the kind of foresight, here is the kind of courage -- and it takes courage to dare to be different. I will be different in 1982 and sign this document and commend and congratulate my fellow delegates who created it.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Thank you.

Delegate Long?

MR. LONG: Mr. President, as you know, I have stated time and again that I am for statehood, that our primary aim is statehood. To that end, I have constantly throughout this Convention tried to persuade the delegates to write a simple, straightforward document that would appeal to a wide range of voters and be acceptable to the Congress.

I have won some of those battles, and I have lost some. I now stand ready to put the result of our intensive labors before the voters. I believe we should transmit the Constitution to the Board of Elections with instructions to allow the voters to vote "Yes" or "No", article by article, as well as a "Yes" or "No" vote on the Constitution as a whole. I will so move at the time we take up the motion to transmit.

While I have some reservations on sections of this document, looking at the whole document, taking it as a whole, I intend to sign and defend this Constitution.

(Applause.)

MR. LONG: Delegate Street?

MS. STREET: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is with pleasure that I, a Ward 4 representative to this prestigious body, give my approval to the adoption of

this Constitution, a document that is daring, bold, and yet progressive.

Like other similar democratic experiences, we have not gained all we wanted as individual delegates, but we stand together to see that this document gets the acceptance from the people of the District of Columbia and from the United States Congress.

As your Historian, I will be very much interested in seeing this go forth, so we can add a post-chapter to the history of this Convention.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Kameny?

MR. KAMENY: Fellow founding mothers and fathers --

(Applause.)

MR. KAMENY: -- we have worked long and hard to produce our Constitution. I am confident that no document as complex as this could ever possibly satisfy everybody. In fact, I think if one, single person wrote a constitution and did a truly conscientious job of it, he or she would have to put into it things with which the writer him or herself disagreed, simply in order to do the job well.

Therefore, it is with a great sense of pride, accomplishment and satisfaction in the totality of the

document which we have produced, and with a strong sense of confidence that this Constitution, taken in its entirety, will serve the people of New Columbia and will serve them well, that I intend to enter a resounding vote of "Yes" for the entire document, and I urge every one of you to do likewise.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Mr. President, I am extremely pleased as a Ward 4 Delegate to be able to cast an affirmative vote for a document that represents new ideas, concern for the people, and most importantly, a new government, a model government, that will set the tone for progressive governments for decades to come.

As framers, you dared to be what others dreamed to be -- original in thought and futuristic. I urge all of you to vote in the affirmative for the Constitution.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Johnson?

MS. JOHNSON: Fellow delegates, I rise to state my position relative to the Constitution of the State of New Columbia.

Yes, we have worked hard. For many of us, this

activity has completely rearranged our lives. Many personal sacrifices have been made not only by the delegates here assembled, but by our families, who are anxiously awaiting us back.

During these past few months, most of us have also maintained very responsible jobs. It has indeed been quite an undertaking -- one, however, that I have greatly enjoyed participating in.

Nevertheless, it has been interesting and also a most important step toward statehood. However, I believe that the voters of the District, while desiring more than anything to achieve statehood, will not, as suggested here the other day, vote up concepts that will kill them financially or result in their ultimately having to leave the state because they are simply unable to meet tax obligations created by the requirements of the state.

However, I do feel as though the electors should be given the opportunity to express their wishes on these issues. I certainly hope that the electors will turn out in great numbers when the issue comes up on the ballot this fall. No matter which way they vote -- that is, for or against the Constitution -- large numbers of participants in the voting process will serve as a signal to political observers that this

is, without question, the number one issue with the citizens and residents of the District of Columbia.

The majority of the people of Ward 7 want statehood, but they will vote with caution, their vote reflecting the effects of specific constitutional statements on them.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Time, Delegate Johnson.

MS. JOHNSON: The economic situation in Ward 7 runs the gamut of the spectrum. The voters wishes will ultimately prevail in acceptance or rejection of this, the first edition of the Constitution for the new State of Columbia.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Corn?

Delegate Corn, we will let you know when you have ten seconds left, purely for your convenience.

MS. CORN: Gloria Corn, Delegate, Ward 3.

My fellow delegates and the public, although I strongly believe in self-determination, because of the numerous inconsistencies in this document and the many provisions which I believe will be extremely detrimental to the well-being of the citizens of our proposed State, and my constituents especially, I must, with sincere and bitter regret, vote "No" on this Constitution.

One example of this kind of inconsistency is in

Article II, Section 4, where it says, "no appointed or elected delegate to the House of Delegates"; yet, in Article III, Section 10(a), it says, "The Governor may make an interim appointment other than a legislative officer." Exactly what is meant? Who fills those legislative vacancies?

We have created four branches of government -- the Legislature, the Executive, the Judicial and the Board of Education. In many ways, the Board of Education is less divisive and more powerful than the Legislature. The Judiciary is in essence controlled by the Governor, who appoints Judges and Justices and who appoints six out of nine members of the Tenure Commission, which can remove a Judge or Justice directly or recommend that the public do so at a retention election.

While I know it is no point asking you to vote "No" with me, I strongly urge the voters of this City to vote "No" in November; give us a chance to do a better job. This is merely a working draft.

Thank you, fellow delegates.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Mr. President, fellow delegates, I,

Samuel Robinson, of Ward 5, take great pleasure in standing before you in support of this Constitution.

For reasons only God almighty knows, 45 of us were elected to perform the historical duties of drafting this Constitution. For the first time in the history of the United States of America, a truly democratic Constitution has been drafted. I support this document. There are many parts herein that I disagree with. But basically, we have given to the voters of this City a solid document, and I ask you, the public, I ask you, my fellow delegates, as we leave this hall, to work in full support of this document, and may God bless all of you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Nahikian?

MS. NAHIKIAN: During the past 90 days, we have spent many hours that have been both a joy and, to some people, moments of despair, because they were put in situations that they had never experienced before.

But if there is one commonality that has brought this group together, it is the commonality of a commitment to the democratic process. And the comments that I make this morning, I make out of the experience of long years of work in Ward 1, which represents in many ways the microcosm of this

City, and the comments I make are to those of you who have reservations.

It is very difficult to come to the point as an elected official where you have to vote the people's interests versus your own personal interests. But if you believe, as I do, that there is a very fine line between responsibility as an elected official to represent the mass majority of people and your own personal principles, and if you understand the one, common denominator that brings us all together has been a commitment to the democratic process, then I urge those of you who have reservations -- and there are some in the room -- about whether or not they will vote for this Constitution to understand that the only way we will move forward and the lesson that we in the District of Columbia and in the new State, the New Columbia, can be committed to out of our diversity is that commonality of the democratic process, then you will vote for, and you will sign this Constitution, because you believe that it is the voters and the people of the District of Columbia who must have the final say in everything we do.

I urge you to remember a very important principle.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Time, Delegate Nahikian.

MS. NAHIKIAN: Our solutions may not be perfect,

but if we are not part of trying to forge a solution, we will continue to be part of continuing to support the problem.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT CASSEL: Thank you.

Delegate Mason:

MRS. MASON: Mr. President and fellow delegates, I am happy to have been elected at-large to work for this Constitution. We have formed what I call a community. I want to thank all of you for your efforts -- your untiring efforts. I want to thank also Josephine Butler --

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Mason, that was a bit out of order. You lost some time there, but we're going to allow it.

MRS. MASON: Thank you, Mr. President. I hope you will allow me also to thank Ed Gynan, who is the initiator of the initiative for statehood.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Mason, let me tell you that we are going to do all of this at the end. And there are many other people. I don't want you to use up your entire two minutes. I know you want to speak on the motion.

MRS. MASON: Right. I want to speak on the motion

by also honoring Julius Hobson, who would have been 60 years old on the 27th, and he is the father of the initiative, referendum and recall, which got us here today. And I want to remind us that we, as Lincoln said in his day, rose high to the occasion. The occasion was high, and we did rise high to the occasion. We have finalized a document of which I am very proud.

I say to you, let's take the Constitution to the voters of this new State, and let us continue to work to make this State the 51st State of the Union.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Time.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Rothschild?

MR. ROTHSCHILD: One thing I have tried to do at this Convention is learn to speak faster.

First of all, I would like to say with great appreciation that I have truly enjoyed working with this group of people. The process itself has been interesting, although not totally satisfying.

I would like to say that what we have before us is a very progressive document, and many progressive elements that I totally support. However, today, I am going to abstain

from voting for the document for the following reasons.

For one thing, I don't think we have a finished product. I don't think we had the time or the money to do the job properly, nor do I think we dealt with those constraints properly. I think we should have made it clear that we did not have the time and the money, and we should have gone and gotten more time, for certain.

I also think that in designing a progressive document, we have to consider its workability, and I don't think we have done that sufficiently. There are many problems in the economic areas that really make the document, in my belief, unworkable.

I think that in the area of the Legislature and the Judiciary, there is a lot more thought that really should go into it, particularly the Judiciary. We have not designed a good judicial system. The best we have done is left ourselves a little space to get out of it and let the Legislature correct it.

I think there are too many details in too many areas, such as legislation, initiative, referendum and recall. I think we have boxed ourselves in in some areas and really should have left a little more breathing space.

The process basically has not been a satisfactory one.

I think the way we followed our rules and the way in which the rules were used, I think in many instances were not done without impartiality, and I am very unsatisfied with that, although I am not complaining from a personal point of view, just from an overall view of how the Convention has worked.

As a political statement, I'd like to salute this document. It speaks to many of the problems on the local and national and international level --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Time.

MR. ROTHSCHILD: -- that there are in the economy, but these are not the solutions. This is only part of the answer, and it needs a lot more work.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Gerry Warren?

MS. WARREN: Thank you.

My fellow delegates, brothers and sisters, as a member of the Ward 6 delegation, I am honored to cast a "Yes" vote for this Constitution in its entirety. I, too, have a dream, that we the people of the New Columbia will be free, and I feel that this Constitution which we have drafted will in fact bring about this freedom.

I urge you to vote "Yes".

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Thank you very much.

There are just two and a half minutes left. The President would like to make the last statement, and I would like to make a quote from an article in our "Statehood Constitution Newsletter", which is somewhat less than two minutes long.

"It is well to remember that the writing of a Constitution is only an implementing procedure --

MR. CLARKE: Point of procedure, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Would you please not interrupt, sir? I am in the middle of reading. I would like the courtesy of your waiting until we finish. Nobody else has been interrupted. The Chair expects not to be interrupted.

MR. CLARKE: I wanted to move to extent the time to give you the opportunity --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Sir, you can do that at the end. That is normal. You should know that.

I'll extend my time now, because of that interruption.

"It is well to remember that the writing of a constitution is only an implementing procedure and that becoming a state is the primary issue before us this year.

And it will be the issue until we have achieved political

parity with our fellow citizens in the states.

"I believe that the prospects for voter acceptance of a well-written, concise and appropriate constitution are excellent" -- and I think that is what we have. "After all, the citizens of the District of Columbia have already presented themselves at the polls to approve statehood, and on a second occasion, to elect delegates. It is clear that they want to get on with the process.

"Now, while there are varying opinions regarding approval by the United States Congress, one should remember that each Congressperson is, himself or herself, a creature of statehood, a thoroughly tried, tested, and proven form of government below the Federal level. One should also remember that our nation claims primary fealty to the principle of representative government and democratic procedure; and that we are one of the very few nations in the western world which relegates its national capitol to colonial status.

"But most importantly, on three occasions, the citizens of the national capitol will have expressed by referendum their intention to leave behind the outdated, outmoded and unacceptable colonial status we now endure.

"Now, with all these positive indices abroad in

our community, can Congressional approval be far behind?"

Now, was there a motion on the part of some delegate?

MR. CLARKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Clarke?

MR. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I want to move to extend the time so that any delegate wishing to make a statement may make it. I had intended to make a further motion for the opportunity for you to extend --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Is there a second to that motion?

(The motion was duly seconded.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: It has been moved and seconded that the time be extended.

Delegate Clarke, what was the time limit that you proposed -- or, did you propose a time limit?

MR. CLARKE: No. My motion was for every member to be able to have an opportunity to make a statement. I would limit that to two minutes per member -- or, one minute.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Is that the understanding of the seconder?

MS. SHELTON: I have a question for the Chair.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Well, let me put the motion on the floor, please. It has been moved and seconded that time

be extended for debate until each delegate has had an opportunity to express himself.

Discussion? Delegate Harris, Robinson, Barnes.

MS. SHELTON: I had a question for the Chair.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I am sorry. Your question?

MS. SHELTON: I would like to ask the delegate a question through the Chair.

Delegate, were you not aware of your desire when you made the original motion? Were you not aware that the 30-minute time would not be sufficient to allow the delegates to --

MR. CLARKE: I made no motion.

MS. SHELTON: Oh, you did not make a motion?

MR. CLARKE: No, ma'am.

MS. SHELTON: Oh, I'm sorry.

Who made the motion to extend?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Robinson?

MS. SHELTON: Who made the motion to extend?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: The motion was made by Delegate Clarke and seconded.

MR. BALDWIN: No, they're talking about the motion to extend debate by Delegate Clarke.

MS. SHELTON: Yes, that's the motion I'm asking about.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I beg your pardon if I misunderstood. Did you not make a motion to extend?

MR. CLARKE: I made a motion to extend. The question to me, sir, was why did I not think about that when I made the motion to set a 30-minute time limit.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes, and your response was?

MR. CLARKE: The thing is, I did not make a motion to put a 30-minute time limit.

MS. SHELTON: No, the motion -- well, maybe I can correct my statement so you can better understand it. It seems that there is a habit of sometimes coming in late, after the will of the group has sometimes been determined.

Delegate, I was just wondering whether or not you thought of why you did not provide us with your wisdom at the time we were considering the original time frame. We certainly wish that you would have provided us with that wisdom, so that this body would not be put in a position now of having to --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Are you speaking against the motion?

MS. SHELTON: Yes, sir, I am speaking against it.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: All right. Harris, Robinson, Baldwin, Freeman.

MS. HARRIS: Mr. President and fellow delegates, I urge you to defeat this motion. Prior to our speaking on the Constitution, the time frame was set; we agreed on it; and I think we have heard discussions from delegates pro and con, and I think that that is sufficient time, and I think we should move on to vote on the Constitution and sign it in its proper form.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Mr. President, I stand to ask, is an amendment to that motion in order? If it is, sir --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: No, sir, an amendment to that motion is not in order. I think it was leading and long in the first place.

Delegate Baldwin?

MS. SHELTON: Could you get instructions from the Chair, so that he would tell you how you would be better able to carry it forward.

MR. ROBINSON: Mr. President, I should like to know how could I be able to carry forth a motion at this time to limit the time to 15 minutes' additional time for discussion by our delegates. Sir, can I offer a substitute motion?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I have already recognized Harris, Robinson, Baldwin, and Freeman. After that, you may make an

amendment.

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Baldwin?

MR. BALDWIN: Mr. President, I think he has covered my point. I, too, would attempt to make an amendment, but I think the maker of the motion realizes when he left such an open-ended motion to allow every delegate who wishes to speak -- number one, there are about 28 or 29 or 30; thus far, 14 have spoken, and he would be allowing more time than we originally voted for, 30 minutes, and I just don't think that makes much sense.

MR. JACKSON: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes, state your point.

MR. JACKSON: I understand from the rules that extension of time is not debateable, and it carries a two-thirds vote, so I would ask the Chair to move on that, if that is true. As I understand it, it is not debateable, and it requires a two-thirds vote for extension of time. I move that we just vote one way or another, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: All right. Our Parliamentarian indicates that the delegate is correct.

Those in favor of extending the time until everybody has spoken, indicate by saying aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Those opposed?

(A chorus of nos.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Abstain?

(A show of hands.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Let me see the hands very quickly of those people in favor of extending debate in accordance with the motion. Please keep them up until we have counted; please, do not let them go up and down. Those who want to extend debate until every person has had an opportunity to express himself.

(A show of hands.)

MR. COOPER: Twenty-eight.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Those opposed?

(A show of hands.)

MR. COOPER: Nine.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Those abstaining?

(A show of hands.)

MR. COOPER: One.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: The motion carries.

Let the Chair indicate that the motion was to extend debate until every delegate has had an opportunity to express himself on the motion on the floor. There are 14 so far who

have had that opportunity, so those who I will recognize now will be those who have not spoken yet.

MS. JONES: Point of order, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: State your point, please.

MS. JONES: It takes two-thirds of the 45 to cut off debate; 28 is not two-thirds of 45.

MR. ROBINSON: Point of order.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: State your point.

MR. ROBINSON: I was told, sir, that at such time as the vote was taken, that I can move my motion.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: No. What I had indicated was after I had heard from those people I have already recognized. You can make a substitute motion if you like, sir.

MR. ROBINSON: You said I can at this time?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes.

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I move that 15 minutes be allotted for additional discussion by delegates.

(The motion was duly seconded.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegates, may I have quiet.

The motion we just passed was to extend it until every delegate has had an opportunity to express himself. The motion to extend it for only 15 minutes may not allow that

amount of time. Therefore, I must rule that out of order.

MS. SHELTON: Mr. President, point of order. May I hear the exact language that we adopted?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Mr. Secretary?

MR. COOPER: The language we adopted was to extend the time of debate until every delegate has had an opportunity to speak.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: All right, is that clear?

Delegate Clarke?

MR. CLARKE: Did you call on me to speak, or for further motion?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I called on you to speak. The motion has passed.

MS. PARAMORE: Point of information.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes, point of inquiry. Please do not repeat the questions that have been made before. Let's be very succinct, and make certain that all we are trying to do is to expedite the completion of the reading.

MS. PARAMORE: My point of inquiry is this, Mr. President. Will there be a time that, if delegates do not wish to speak to the motion that they may have a chance to speak in another form, as a form of dedication?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Oh, yes, it is possible that other

issues that are pertinent and that the Convention would like hear could be mentioned today, after we get through with the Constitution itself.

MS. PARAMORE: I would like to be allowed to speak at that time.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Surely. Thank you.

Delegate Clarke? Mr. Secretary, would you advise me who has spoken and who has not spoken.

Delegate Clarke, you are reminded that the two-minute rule is still in order.

MR. CLARKE: Thank you, sir.

Fellow delegates, today we come to the point where the delegates to this Convention must decide whether to propose this document before us to the people of the District of Columbia as a proposed Constitution. We must act today because the Council ill-advisedly requires that this vote be taken within 90 days of the beginning of the Convention. I oppose this requirement as a member of the Council.

If this requirement were not existent, this Convention could now recess, submit the document to the public, and receive their advice before final action.

As you know from some of my debate during the deliberations, I have serious reservations about some of the

provisions. While I think that much of what is contained in this document is good, and that all of the intent is benevolent, I am not sure that the State can function on behalf of its citizens with some of the provisions.

Particularly, I am concerned that the ability of the State to ? with this document would require its constitutional rights and of the ability of the State to protect the public safety, without the ability to maintain some confidential information.

Unfortunately, because the 90-day time limit was imposed, the public will not have the opportunity to advise us before today. Despite our extraordinary efforts to secure their advice on the trees, we do not have the opportunity to seek their advice on the forest. Moreover, the 90-day time limit present us with a dilemma. Those of us with serious reservations about this document, but a continuing commitment to statehood, must now consider what the vote means. The 90-day time limite transforms a negative vote into a cessation of progress toward statehood.

In other words, if we vote today, the Convention sessions end, there is no opportunity to go upon the ballot, and the process ends. If we go ahead, and the document is

rejected at the polls, as I am afraid it will be, not only will we go back to where we were in September without funding, but a message will go out across the nation that will be misconstrued to say we do not want statehood. But at least the process will not have ended. The 90-day time limit will put this Convention and its delegates between a rock and a hard place.

I believe that the people of the District want statehood and would not want the process truncated by operation of a provision superimposed on --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Your time is up, sir.

MR. CLARKE: For my part, noting a rejection of this document at this time will end the struggle, and that if the people reject it, there will be further opportunity, I will vote affirmatively as a delegate today, but will reserve my right as a voting citizen of the District of Columbia, to make another determination solely upon the document itself in November.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Thank you.

Delegate Schrag?

MR. SCHRAG: Mr. President, I have circulated to all delegates a copy of my views, and rather than taking the time

of this Convention to read them at this time, I'd just like to have them entered into the record at this point.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Thank you.

(The following was received for the record.)

LIVE ACT

~~GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER~~

~~WASHINGTON D.C. 20001~~

May 29, 1982

~~Delegates to the Statehood
Constitutional Convention
929 E Street, NW
Washington, DC~~

~~STATEMENT OF DELEGATE SCHRAG~~

Dear Fellow Delegates:

We have all worked very hard for the past five months to try to make our Constitution a superior framework for government and a milestone in the effort to achieve statehood. Today, we must vote on the document as a whole, and I find this a difficult decision. At the outset of our work, and during most of the spring, I had certainly expected that I would cast an affirmative vote. Some of the Convention's decisions in the last few weeks, however, have led me reluctantly to conclude that I must abstain, and in this letter I will share with you the reasons for that conclusion.

I should say at the outset that I do think that the voters have the right to make their own decision on ratification, and that if my affirmative vote were necessary to bring the document out of the Convention and onto the ballot, I would cast such a vote, while expressing reservations as to the substance of some of the clauses of the Constitution. Because it is obvious that the Constitution will be approved by the Convention and will go to the voters, I consider it proper to cast a conscientious vote of abstention, leaving the final decision to the voters.

Positive features of the Constitution

The Constitution that we have drafted has many very positive features. I will list those that I regard as the most significant.

1. A Step Toward Statehood. The most positive aspect of the Constitution is that its development brings us a step closer to achieving statehood. As you know, the Ward that I represent is divided on the question of statehood for the District, and a majority of the Ward voted against the initiative that called this Convention. But many voters within the Ward, including myself, believe statehood to be desirable, for a variety of reasons. First, voting representation in Congress is a basic right of American citizenship, and with ratification of the

Voting Rights Amendment stalled in the States, statehood is the most likely method of achieving such representation. Second, the right of genuine self-determination is an equally important right for which the founders of our country fought and died, and there is no valid reason for denying it to people who happen to live near the nation's seat of government. Under the program for achieving statehood that the voters approved in 1980, completion and voter approval of a Constitution is a prerequisite to an application to Congress for statehood; our work is therefore a necessary but not sufficient step toward that goal.

2. A Unicameral Legislature. I applaud the Convention's decision to provide the new State with a one-house legislature. Among the other states, only Nebraska gives us a precedent, but a one-house legislature is appropriate for our state for several reasons. First, it is familiar; a one-house Council has legislated for the District in recent years, and although everyone undoubtedly has some complaint about the work of the Council in some respect, there is no reason to believe that a two-house Council would have served us better. Second, a one-house legislature promotes legislative accountability; it is easier for the voters to know whom to hold responsible for outcomes they favor or dislike, and legislators cannot blame "the other house" for killing or altering popular legislation. Third, a unicameral legislature can in principle be less expensive than a bicameral legislature, since the taxpayers need not pay for duplicate sets of legislators, staff, executive branch testimony on bills, and other indirect costs. Unfortunately, we did not realize this potential savings to the fullest possible extent, and I will return to this point later.

3. A Streamlined Executive Branch. We have wisely established a streamlined Executive Branch; indeed, I think that the Executive Branch article is one of the best in the Constitution. It is frugal, requiring direct election of only two statewide officers, a Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and providing the Governor with the necessary powers with which to run the state. Unlike some Lieutenant Governors, whose positions are largely ceremonial, ours would function as a Secretary of State, in charge of certain election functions, and could also be authorized by the Governor to undertake other official state duties.

4. Commission Nomination of Judges. We have followed the modern trend (and current D.C. practice) of providing for a nominating commission to make suggestions for the judiciary on the basis of merit, and for the Governor to appoint judges from among names

offered by this commission. These were sound decisions, likely to result in a bench of high quality and civic responsibility. The placement of a substantial number of non-lawyers on the nominating commission also suggests that there would be genuine input from the lay community in this process.

5. Significant Advances in the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights includes some provisions that go significantly beyond the rights protected by the federal constitution or any other state constitution, and which represent important advances in civil liberties. We have provided explicit Constitutional recognition of the right of women and homosexuals, as well as of racial minorities, to be free from discrimination; abolition of the death penalty, which is both morally repugnant and, from time to time, a source of tragic, irreversible legal error; a specific right for women to decide for themselves whether or not to bear children; and greater protection of individuals from governmental surveillance. While I think that our Bill of Rights is marred by a couple of excesses, as indicated below, parts of it are models for the future development of Constitutional rights in other states and countries.

Reservations About the Document

My principal reservations about the Constitution we have drafted are as follows:

1. The "Right to Employment". Full employment is a laudable goal, but it should be secured by effective public and private economic policies, rather than by lawsuits in the courts. The new Constitution includes, in its Bill of Rights, the "right to employment" (or, alternatively, if the person is "unable to work", a right to "income sufficient to meet basic human needs"), suggesting that an unemployed person (including any such person who migrates for this purpose from another state) has a judicially enforceable right to a job, apparently a governmentally supplied job, and presumably at no less than the minimum wage. This Section was inserted into the Bill of Rights without regard to the amount by which taxes will have to be increased to cover the expenditures. The cost will obviously be very high; it should be ascertained more precisely before the public is called upon to vote on the Constitution, so that the citizens can take the projected tax increase into consideration along with the very real public benefits of full employment. (Similarly, extending the age of compulsory education from 16 to 18 will involve substantial new expenditures that should also be quantified.)

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2. A 40-member Legislature. People can reasonably disagree about the ideal size for the new state's legislature. The present 13-member Council is probably too small; a somewhat larger body would permit members to devote more attention to specialized topics. I favored a 24-member legislature; a 40-member body, more than three times the size of the Council, seems excessively large. The issue is important because a lawmaking body which has to perform, simultaneously, the duties of state legislature, county legislature, and city council will have to be in session for most of the year, and the members and their staffs will have to be compensated accordingly. (At present, Council members are paid more than \$40,000 a year, and each member's staff is paid more than this in the aggregate; it might be possible to pay members less, but not without risk of making it more difficult to attract a diverse group of talented public servants.)

3. Retention Elections for Judges. An independent judiciary is an essential safeguard for individual liberty. Recognizing this, our nation's founders provided that federal judges serve for lifetime terms, immune from political pressures of any kind. Similarly, judges of the District of Columbia serve 15-year terms, with automatic reappointment if they are rated highly by a non-partisan tenure commission. By contrast, while the new Constitution would have judges appointed on the basis of merit, it would require trial judges to run in retention elections every six years, and appellate judges every ten years. While this conforms to the practice of many states (some of which also elect their judges initially), it could significantly reduce the security of judges and increase their responsiveness to short term passions and political currents.

4. Rigid Regulation of Private and Parochial Schools. The new Constitution states that all private and parochial schools "shall be required" to meet the "same" minimum standards for instructors, instruction and student achievement as are imposed by the Board of Education on the public schools. This suggests to me that if the Board of Education requires, as a minimum standard for the public schools, that teachers in those schools have degrees in education, the same degree will have to be obtained by private and parochial school teachers. Similarly, it would appear that if the Board requires completion of a particular curriculum as a minimum requirement for the public schools, private and parochial school students will also have to complete this curriculum. Under the Constitution, the State Board of Education "may establish equivalent alternatives" to its standards, but if it does not do so, or if the equivalents established for the public school system do not offer much flexibility, the Constitution appears to build excessive rigidity into the private and parochial

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schools, thereby defeating the whole point of alternative school systems, from which curricular and other pedagogical innovations have often sprung. Furthermore, the Constitution appears to give the Board of Education a kind of conflict-of-interest; while its principal function is running the public school system, it is given wide-ranging power to regulate that system's only competitors, and under the Constitution, not even the state legislature may amend or repeal standards set by the Board.

5. Expanded Discovery in Criminal Cases. The Bill of Rights provides that defendants in criminal cases have a right to "discovery of all evidence possessed by the State." This provision goes considerably beyond the present requirement of the criminal law, and could require the police to reveal the identities of people who are confidential informants, thereby making law enforcement more difficult.

These reservations are not necessarily those that others may hold, nor do they necessarily relate to those sections of the Constitution that have received the most public attention. They are, as I have noted, personal reservations, and although I never expected to agree with every aspect of the Constitution, recognizing it to require political compromise, these points are sufficiently serious to preclude me, to my great regret, from voting in favor of the document.

~~I am grateful for your kind attention to these reflections.~~

Sincerely yours,

Philip G. Schrag
Philip G. Schrag
Delegate

PGS:mbs

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Holmes?

MS. HOLMES: Mr. President and my fellow delegates, I am proud to stand up here today that we are to make history for Ward 6, 8, and et cetera, and I am glad that we have been together for 90 days.

I feel that we as delegates of this City should have the opportunity to take this out to our voters and let them vote on what we have fought for and believed in in the days that we have been here.

Being a Washingtonian, and a few other Washingtonians in here, we believe that we have been given an opportunity to start at the beginning and go through the ending, without papers being pushed under our noses to sign, from someone else who has brought it to us, telling us that this is what we have to do.

And I am proud to stand here today to be a part of this Convention, because I am a firm believer -- I am tired of people coming in here, telling me how to live and what I am supposed to do. And as much taxes as we pay, the people say that we cannot afford the document -- we haven't even seen the amount of money, whether it runs from a penny to a million dollars -- and if we can find money for everything else, we should be able to find money to take something to our

community and let them have the opportunity to vote and let us know how they feel from the work that we have brought forth from this 90 days. We have almost lost our homes out here, but I want to thank all delegates, that are new, that I have just met, and I hope that we will continue our relationship from here on in.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Blount?

MR. BLOUNT: Mr. Chairman, I had asked to speak earlier, so therefore I would like to use my time.

Fellow delegates, after much agonizing and soul-searching, I, William Blount from Ward 7, will be voting "Yes" on the Constitution of the State of New Columbia.

There are some provisions that I worked very hard to defeat; and they passed anyway. But overall, I think we have a B-plus Constitution.

Three months of our lives are embedded in this document, and I think to vote "No" would be saying I don't want the citizens of New Columbia to make the final decision. I hear from many quarters that the citizens and Congress will not approve this document. But I ask the question: Where are the in-depth surveys to support this?

I strongly urge my fellow delegates to give the citizens a chance. Vote "Yes" on this historic and progressive document.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Thank you.

Delegate Talmadge Moore?

MR. T. MOORE: Mr. President and fellow delegates, I am Talmadge Moore from Ward 5. I rise to support this document, every element of this document. I think this Constitution that we have just completed covers all of the people and is for all of the people, not like the U.S. Federal Constitution, where it only covers the rich and the wealthy. This covers all people -- black people, poor people, rich people, and everything else; all the different ethnic and cultural groups this document covers.

So I urge you to support this document, and I must say that our job has just begun. Are we going to the neighborhoods and our communities and organizations with a negative attitude or a positive attitude? Are we going to sell this document?

(Applause.)

MR. T. MOORE: So I urge you to start, as of tomorrow, informing our people of all the work and toil of

what we are down here for.

Don't let the citizens down. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Love?

MR. LOVE: Fellow delegates, our debate is almost finished, but our dialogue with the voters has just begun. If we have wrangled, it is because we are the most diverse set of delegates that has ever sat down to write a constitution. Unlike previous Constitutional Conventions, where delegates were made up entirely of legislators and lawyers, we are lawyers, we are City Councilmen, we are college professors, we are schoolteachers, we are preachers, we are waitresses -- we come from all over the City.

This document therefore represents the whole City, not a part of it, not a special interest, not a particular color, not a particular income. Our debate is finishing, but our dialogue with the voters will begin. I urge the voters to talk with us, not to listen to hysteria, but to listen to the reasons for the things that we have done. They have reasons. They have been thought out carefully, and they are justified.

You are going to hear a lot of hysterical talk in the future about the costs, and this and that. There are five delegates here from each ward. I urge the voters to call the

delegate and to ask that delegate why this thing was done; what are the reasons behind it. You may disagree, but we have done nothing in foolishness and nothing without the understanding of the consequences of what we have done. We look forward to talking with you in the next few months.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Oulahan?

MR. OULAHAN: Mr. President, fellow delegates, you all know where I stand on the Constitution, so I won't waste your time on that. But I do want to tell my fellow delegates that despite all our differences and all the losses, I have appreciated the association, and I have learned a great deal. One of the things I have learned as a lawyer in this town for over 35 years as a permanent resident is that you have got to keep learning and understanding what the problems are, and I want to thank you all for having given that to me.

I look forward to debating you again this summer and fall, on the issues of the Constitution in a fair manner. I hope we have a good debate so that we can inform the voters what the issues are.

Mr. President, I have a statement which I have submitted. I also have here from Mr. Garner, who had to be

out of town of necessity, a short statement. Rather than read them in, I would like to submit them for the record, please.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Thank you.

(The following was received for the record.)

May 29, 1982

(in wr)

STATEMENT BY COURTS OULAHAN,
DELEGATE, WARD III,
D.C. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

I am unable to sign the proposed Constitution. Statehood is not now the issue. A fair document providing for equal protection of every citizen in our City, and for a viable State when Statehood becomes possible, is the issue.

The proposed Constitution, despite all our best efforts, does not meet these standards. The best interests and broad views of all of our citizens, melded together in a satisfactory whole, have not been met.

Instead, we have a document based on inequality of the diverse elements of our society. This document actually harms our society.

The reasonable expectation of all of our citizens to be free from crime has been seriously diminished, by unwarranted and drastic changes in the criminal justice system.

The judiciary has been politicized by the requirement for the Judges to stand for election every ten years.

The efficient administration of our local government has been jeopardized by the right to strike of public employees and by the right to sue for damages against every public officer and employee by any dissatisfied citizen.

The Bill of Rights and other sections of the proposed Constitution create new "rights" and "privileges," the nature and scope of which are not defined, and the cost of which cannot be estimated.

There is a serious question concerning the economic viability of the proposed new State because of the novel and far-reaching provisions dealing with economic development, public utilities,

taxes, exemption from real estate taxes, and the unreckoned cost of a cradle-to-grave welfare system.

Private secondary and higher education are threatened by measures which render the proposed State unneutral in its relations with religious institutions and deny to thousands of private school students of every race the same economic advantages available to public school and college students.

I trust that my views will be accepted by my fellow delegates in the same good faith which I have attempted to show with respect to their views. I look forward to fair and responsible debate during the coming months on the merits and demerits of the proposed D.C. Constitution.

The product of these past months of high-pressure deliberation must now meet the test of all concerned citizens who feel responsibility for the future of our community.

Courts Oulahan

Courts Oulahan

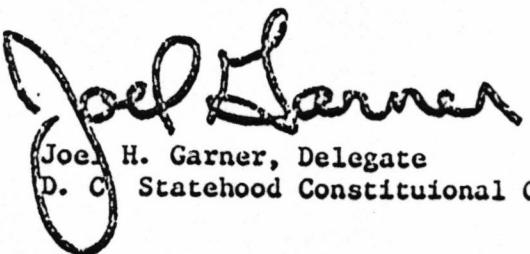
Garner
(initials)

Statement of Joel H. Garner on the Incompatibility of the Constitution
Proposed by the D.C. Statehood Convention and the Drive for Statehood

The document adopted by this convention and submitted to the voters for their consideration is not a State constitution, nor is it merely excessive legislation. It is a Christmas Tree of political innovations, some ornamental and some substantive, all of which will have the effect of generating additional opposition to the constitution and the Statehood application.

Statehood is a controversial idea, one which I have long and actively supported. By itself, Statehood might be acceptable to a majority of District voters. Encumbered by dozens of innovative and, in some instances, radical proposals, Statehood is unlikely to be approved by D.C. voters, and certainly not the U.S. Congress.

I continue to support Statehood, but I cannot support or urge others to support the constitutional provisions adopted by this convention.



Joel H. Garner, Delegate
D. C. Statehood Constitutional Convention

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Oulahan, we appreciate your conciliatory remarks, but I would urge all speakers from this point on to please speak to the motion on the floor.

Delegate Feely?

MS. FEELY: Fellow delegates, I would urge that we vote for the document. But I would like to enter into the record a part of Dorothy Gilliam's creativity, because I think it does relate to the motion.

"...we need some original thinking, some new ways of looking at old problems. Chronicling, watching and trying new solutions is mandatory -- if any new solutions are available.

"The Last Colony could be the laboratory for new solutions. Let somebody besides the Sheik of Araby come in with a plan to aid the majority of the people who live in this town. Where is the private sector in Washington when it comes to needs that don't have the sex appeal of Wolf Trap?

"It's really not enough to leave it up to the local government alone. We must create a new voice and new solutions. At a time when we should be testing new solutions and moving beyond narrow interests, most community groups seem afraid to deal with anything more daring than the expansion of the Safeway.

"Why can't the churches, for example, organize

community forums and stimulate the dialogue so people can identify the needs and tell the politicians? Why can't some of Washington's educated elite get a dialogue going between the isolated children in far Northeast and the children on the Gold Coast around their common needs for positive identity?

"It is easy at a time like this to give in to frustration over the way things are going and to declare an inability to do anything.

"That's why I" -- yes, I, Jeannette Feely, too -- "think the Statehood delegates deserve applause for their determination to be futuristic. The voters, of course, will debate --and finally decide -- the value and validity of the Constitution in November, but in giving us some fresh and original thinking, our hometown friends" -- and I was born here in D.C. -- "have done no trifling thing."

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Let me say for the record that Dorothy Gilliam, to whom Delegate Feely referred, is a highly-regarded columnist for a local newspaper -- I can never think of the name of that paper; what is it --

MS. FEELY: It's the one that didn't think that

statehood was important enough to do anything about it before the November election.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Whatever. Well, somebody will look up the record and see the name of that local newspaper.

The next speaker will be Delegate Brian Moore.

MR. MOORE: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, fellow delegates and visitors to the Convention.

As you know, my fellow delegates, two months ago, I submitted a letter to you that was not very popular at the time, I think. I basically was critical of our Congressional delegate, Mr. Fauntroy, and critical of the people who spoke that we should be traditional and orthodox. The ideas in that letter spoke of creativity, they spoke of independence of thought, they spoke of courage -- and I believe that that is what has occurred here in this Convention.

Initially, in the first articles, we did not go that way, I felt, but we progressed along, and the prophets of doom became less and less, and the creative ideas became more and more.

However, I believe that we have gone beyond the ideas that are workable, and because of that, I feel that I cannot vote in approval of this Constitution. I will abstain from voting, not to get in the way, and I will sign the

document so that it will be presented to the voters, and it will be up to them to decide.

I would like to thank you for your sharing of ideas and the opportunity to exchange ideas with you, and I will present the ideas of this Convention and the Constitution objectively and fairly and without opposition to the voters of the District of Columbia.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Mildred Lockridge?

MS. LOCKRIDGE: Fellow delegates, I really hadn't planned to ask for any time, but I keep hearing the word, "different". I am glad that we 45 delegates chose to be different. What a terrible injustice we would have done to this diversified community had we all fought alike.

'It is said that behind every strong man, there is a strong woman. I totally agree with that. But I want you to know that behind any strong State there has to be a strong group of people who dare to be different, in order that we might guarantee that all of us living in this City will be guaranteed to be treated fairly and equally.

I urge each and every one of you to vote in favor of this Constitution.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Bruning?

MR. BRUNING: As a member of the Statehood Party who did probably not think that in his lifetime he would see this event, I rise to support the Constitution that we have written.

(Applause.)

MR. BRUNING: It is a strange thing to be a member of a 1,500-person political party and yet to find out that the people of the District of Columbia as a whole support the idea of statehood. And we have written a document, I think, that is workable and defensible.

We can argue about provisions of it. I have argued against provisions that are in it. But the ultimate question must be, does this document enhance the human rights of the people of the District of Columbia; does it increase the responsiveness of government; does it protect the economic interests of ordinary people in the District of Columbia. And on these three, very basic and very tangible questions, the answer must be yes, this document does that.

For that reason, whatever qualms I may have about certain sections and certain provisions, I say support the Constitution and fight for it.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: The final speaker will be Delegate Norman Nixon. I might say to you that among other distinctions, Delegate Nixon is the youngest delegate in the Convention, not having yet reached his maturity.

Then, Delegates Graham, Jordan.

MS. GRAHAM: Mr. President and members of this delegation --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I am sorry, I had recognized Delegate Norman Nixon.

MS. GRAHAM: I thought you said he was going to be last.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: No, no. You asked afterwards, and we are recognizing everybody.

Delegate Nixon, wherever you are.

I did say that he would speak last, but the motion was to allow everyone who has not spoken. Therefore, he will speak, and if anybody who hasn't spoken yet indicates that he wants to speak afterwards, he has the right. That's the motion you passed.

Delegate Nixon?

MR. NIXON: Thank you, Mr. President.

As the "elder statesman" of this Convention, I rise to vote "Yes" for the Constitution. Nineteen and 89 days ago,

45 delegates sat down to provide self-determination for the people of the District of Columbia. Although I don't agree with everything in the Constitution, I will vote "Yes" for self-determination, because the young people of this City will suffer if we don't provide self-government now.

This Constitution allows a new channel for our youth to be involved in the process of government, through the student on the School Board, through 18-year-olds being allowed to run for the House of Delegates, and they will be provided the best education.

It is not my decision; it is the people's decision. So as I look back at the flag in the back of the room, let's make it 51 stars and 13 stripes.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Graham and Delegate Jordan, as the final speaker.

MS. GRAHAM: Mr. President and members of this Convention, I heard the word, "different", quite frequently. I'm just wondering if our forefathers used that term very much in their deliberations.

It seems to me, and I feel very good about it, knowing, I believe, that this is the first state convention

where so many blacks have had the opportunity to help develop a constitution for a state. I don't have the historical information, but I certainly shall do some searching to find out if that is true. I don't believe so. It is for this reason, I think it is the greatest opportunity that a district or an area with the majority of people who are of black color has had an opportunity to even think about developing a state. And I think we should do all we can to see that this passes.

I feel very good about it, and I don't think there is anything that is so different that we cannot achieve, because we sent somebody to the moon; if we did that, we certainly can help the people right here in this local area, I believe.

It is for that reason I will vote for this Constitution, and I promise you, all the people in my community that I can get to the polls will vote in the affirmative, "Yes".

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Just a minute, Delegate Jordan. May I see the hands of everybody who has not spoken who would like to speak? I'd like to have some idea of how much longer we are going to be here.

Delegate Maguire, would you like to speak now, and we'll let Delegate Jordan be the last speaker?

MS. MAGUIRE: I would like to be the last speaker.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: You would like to be the last speaker. I gave you a chance, now.

Delegate Jordan?

MR. JORDAN: I want to share something with you. When I picked up the petitions for delegate to this Convention, I also picked up petitions for another office. And one night, I said a little prayer and told the Lord I wanted to go to the place where I would do the best, where I could contribute the most, and I was surprised that on election day, I was elected as a delegate to this Convention.

What I want to say is, I don't see anything wrong with us suggesting that we are promoting change, because I think sometimes, change is necessary. To suggest that we should have second thoughts about certain provisions of this Constitution, or to express reservations about specific concerns is to argue that the problems we have sought to address in this Constitution don't exist or are not for real.

It is precisely because we have more people on welfare than any other state in this area that a new approach was necessary to break the vicious cycle of generation after generation being held in a helpless state.

Someone decided for us before we even got home rule that a new court was needed. So when they said, "We are going to have a new court," they said, "Well, we need a new jail to handle all the work we're going to create because we're getting a new court." And today, we have more people per capita in jail than anyplace else in the world, including South Africa.

And we must admit to ourselves that all of those who are in jail are not the wretched of the earth, not the proletariat, the scum. There are some people in jail because they have never had a chance.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Ten seconds.

MR. JORDAN: And we have tried to adjust this problem in the most efficient way by striking at the root causes, and that is to deal with crimes, jobs, and discrimination.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Time, delegate.

MR. JORDAN: Yes, sir, if I could just say one thing. There is a song out now that says, "I don't feel no way tired. I've come too far from where I've started from. Nobody told me the road would be easy. I don't believe He brought us this far to stop."

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Maguire?

Please be advised, delegates, that this is the last speaker, and after this speech, we will vote.

MS. MAGUIRE: I don't want to make a speech.

It is with extreme honor and pleasure on this 90th day that I call the previous question.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Can I get a second to that motion?

(The motion was duly seconded.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: It has been moved and seconded that we terminate debate. Those in favor, indicate by saying aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Those opposed?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Those abstaining?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: We are now ready to vote. Mr. Secretary, will you call the roll? Those in favor of adopting the Constitution of the new State of Columbia will indicate by saying "Yes". Those opposed will say "No".

MS. FEELY: It is the State of New Columbia.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: What did I say?

MS. SIMMONS: You said "the new State of Columbia".

PRESIDENT CASSEL: "New Columbia". I stand corrected. I don't want to make that mistake right off.

MS. SHELTON: Roll call, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Please, may we have some quiet now, so we can hear the roll. We are getting toward the very end.

Mr. Secretary?

(The Secretary called the roll as follows:)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Maguire?

MS. MAGUIRE: Delegate Maguire from Ward 2 happily and peacefully votes yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Marcus?

MR. MARCUS: With pride, humility, and amazement, yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Charles Mason?

MR. MASON: Yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Hilda Mason?

MRS. MASON: Yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Brian Moore?

MR. B. MOORE: Abstain.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Jerry Moore?

(No response.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Talmadge Moore?

MR. T. MOORE: Yes, for the best part of the City,
Ward 5.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Nahikian?

MS. NAHIKIAN: On behalf of the First Ward, I vote
yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Nixon?

MR. NIXON: Yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Oulahan?

MR. OULAHAN: No.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Paramore?

MS. PARAMORE: Yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: To the people of the new State, to
the people of New Columbia, yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Rothschild?

MR. ROTHSCHILD: Looking forward to the day when we
might finish the product we have started, I vote abstain.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Schrag?

MR. SCHRAG: Abstain.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Shelton?

MS. SHELTON: Yes, in the interest of everyone in

the State to guarantee a job for all.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Simmons?

MS. SIMMONS: I always knew we could, I said we would, and we did it -- yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Street?

MS. STREET: As a representative of Ward 4, I proudly vote yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Terrell?

MR. TERRELL: My vote is yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Thomas?

MR. THOMAS: Yes, for the people of Ward 5. I was very happy to be a part of it.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Warren?

MS. WARREN: We believe it. We did it. That settles it. I vote yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Baldwin?

MR. BALDWIN: Yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Barnes?

MR. BARNES: As a representative of Ward 7, and a resident of far Northeast, yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Blount?

MR. BLOUNT: I vote yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Bruning?

MR. BRUNING: Yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Clarke?

MR. CLARKE: So that the process not adhere, yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Coates?

(No response.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Cooper? Yes.

Delegate Corn?

MS. CORN: On behalf of Ward 3, I vote no.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Croft?

MR. CROFT: For all those who struggled in 1619, yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Eichorn?

MS. EICHORN: I vote yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Feely?

MS. FEELY: In the name of freedom, yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Freeman?

MS. FREEMAN: Yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Garner?

(No response.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Graham?

MS. GRAHAM: For all those who struggled in the Civil War, including my grandfather, who was born in 1845 and fought in the Civil War against his will, I vote yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Harris?

MS. HARRIS: To the legacy of (inaudible), as framers of the new State of Columbia, yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Holmes?

MS. HOLMES: For Ward 6, yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Jackson?

MR. JACKSON: Yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Johnson?

MS. JOHNSON: Abstain.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Jones?

MS. JONES: From the great Ward 8, yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Jordan?

MR. JORDAN: I vote yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Kameny?

MR. KAMENY: On behalf of all the people of the future State of New Columbia, and especially on behalf of the people of what is presently Ward 3, I vote yes.

(Applause.)

MS. CORN: Considering I had twice the vote count he did --

(Laughter.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Lockridge?

MS. LOCKRIDGE: Yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Long?

MR. LONG: Yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Love?

MR. LOVE: I would like to cast an exhausted and proud yes.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Cassell?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes.

MR. COOPER: Mr. President, the vote on the question of the adoption of the Constitution of the new State of New Columbia stands 36 voting in favor, 2 voting not in favor, and 4 abstaining.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: All right, ladies and gentlemen. For the record, let me repeat the official count, now. There were 36 for, 2 voting no, and 4 abstaining.

We now have a Constitution for the new State of New Columbia.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL; Delegate Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Mr. President, at this time, I would like to move that the ten substantive committees and two operating committees of the Convention, along with the staff and volunteers and legislative history become an official addendum of the Constitution of the new State of Columbia, to

be added subsequent to the adoption of the Constitution today.

(The motion was duly seconded.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Those in favor, indicate by saying aye --

MS. SIMMONS: Amendment, amendment.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: An amendment, all right.

MS. SIMMONS: The amendment that I spoke to earlier, Mr. President, also submitting the names of all of those good people who gave their volunteer work, and the correction of the official, initial document, which said, "Ward 4, Delegate Simmons, who was at-large".

PRESIDENT CASSELL: All right. Further amendments? We are going to take these by common consent, without objection.

Yes, Delegate Shelton?

MS. SHELTON: Mr. President, for those of us who would like to make written statements for the official record, who did not know that you were going to be providing that opportunity, I would like to have the record kept open so that other official statements may be included.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Without objection, we will leave the record open so that those delegates who desire to make additional statements may have them incorporated in the record.

Delegate Mason?

A VOICE: Mr. Chairman, I know that I am not a delegate, but I would like to take this moment to address the Convention --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: You'll have to wait until all delegates have been --

MRS. MASON: Mr. President, I have a motion I'd like to put on the floor. I am moving, Mr. President, that the Executive Committee explore ways to get all copies of videotapes so that we can add them to the tapes that we did before the Convention, and store them for the history of the Convention.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I think we can do that by common consent, also, and I would ask all of the media persons, as their contribution to this historic process, to make such tapes available to us.

Let me point out to one individual -- there has been someone who is not a member of this delegation who wants to speak. I would just point out that our rules do not allow anybody who is not a delegate to the Constitutional Convention to speak.

All right. Delegate Coates?

MR. COATES: Mr. President, I would like to record

my vote, "Yes".

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegates, I just want to announce that the count has been changed now, to 37 for, with the arrival of Delegate Coates. It is now 37 for, 2 against, and 4 abstaining.

We have not exhausted the agenda yet, ladies and gentlemen. It won't be much longer now, but we do have to sit down. There is further, very important business assigned. We don't have a Constitution yet, until such time as those of us who have written and adopted it have signed it.

The next order of business will be the affirmation, Number 9 on your agenda, of the Constitution of the State of New Columbia.

Now, how is that affirmation to be had? By delegates lining up and signing the Constitution. I'll ask the members of the Style and Drafting Committee now if they would vacate the table in front. I will come down, the Secretary will come down, and I would like for you -- quiet, everybody. The order of signing will be by Ward, starting with Ward 1. The officers will sign last.

(Simultaneous conversation.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Now, we are not finished. I would please ask everybody to sit down first. Please, will all

delegates sit down? The meeting is not over. We do not have a Constitution until it is properly signed. Will all delegates please be seated?

Now that you are seated, ladies and gentlemen, may I have some quiet? May I have some quiet, ladies and gentlemen? The procedure for signing will be as follows. The Secretary will call the names of the members of each Ward, starting with Ward Number 1. They will come to the table and sign the document. When each member of the Ward has signed the document, the President and the Secretary will affix their signatures to the bottom.

It has been called to my attention that the At-Large people would like to sign first. Inasmuch as my understanding is that we are not signing this document according to rank, we ought to be signing it according to alphabetical order.
(Conferring.)

Let me withdraw that statement about alphabetical order. That was a mistake. As I indicated before, we sign by Wards.

Mr. Secretary, would you call the names of the At-Large delegates first, have the At-Large delegates sign, and then start with Ward Number 1, and go through to Number 8.

MS. SIMMONS: Point of personal privilege.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Now, is there any question? We have established the procedure. Let me repeat it again now, so we don't have to have a whole series of questions.

Well, let me start calling some names. Delegate Simmons, Delegate Mason --

MRS. MASON: No. Just a minute --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Just hold it now, all right? Let me repeat the procedure. It is too bad we didn't write this out and pass it out. The procedure is that we will have the At-Large persons file up to the table and sign. We will then have the persons called out Ward by Ward, file up to the table, and sign.

Delegate Jones?

MS. JONES: I would like to know if the signing sheet is in alphabetical order.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I see no alphabetical order. It's a blank sheet there, all right?

MS. JONES: Well, Mr. Chairman, at the beginning --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: We have already established the procedure. This is only confusing. I don't want to have to give several sets.

Please, will the At-Large people file up now,

including Delegate Thomas, who has admission. Delegate Thomas, will you go up and sign, and then the At-Large delegates?

Now, would all delegates please be seated? Only At-Large delegate should be at the table now, and the names going to be called.

Do you have a microphone down there, Mr. Secretary? Now, I know this is a very exciting moment, but we really have to have some quiet now, so you can hear your name when it is called. Will all delegates be seated, except the At-Large members who are standing here, readying to sign.

Mr. Secretary, do you have a microphone?

MR. COOPER: Yes, sir, I do.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Would you call the names of the At-Large delegates first? We'll have to have a little quiet now.

MR. COOPER: Delegate Hilda Hollin M. Mason.

(Delegate Mason signed the document.)

(Applause.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Barbara Lett Simmons.

(Delegate Simmons signed the document.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate David A. Clarke.

(Mr. Clarke signed the document.)

A VOICE: Mr. President, I request that as my Councilman, David Clarke, signs the document --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Lady, I will tell you that you are out of order. You are disrupting the procedure. There is a signing now. You will have to be quiet. We will please ask you to respect this procedure.

Mr. Secretary?

MR. COOPER: Delegate Jerry A. Moore.

(No Response.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Jerry Moore.

(No response.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Charles I. Cassell.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Charles I. Cassell, President.

(Delegate Cassell signed the document.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Harry L. Thomas.

(Delegate Thomas signed the document.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Richard Bruning.

(Delegate Bruning signed the document.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Marie S. Nahikian.

(Delegate Nahikian signed the document.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Anita Bellamy Shelton.

(Delegate Shelton signed the document.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Robert E. Love.

(Delegate Love signed the document.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Maurice Jackson.

(Delegate Jackson signed the document.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Barbara Ann Bernadette Murphy
Maguire.

(Delegate Maguire signed the document.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Alexa P. Freeman.

(Delegate Freeman signed the document.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Wesley H. Long.

(Delegate Long signed the document.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate Kenneth I. Rothschild.

Delegate Rothschild, do you wish to sign?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Fellow delegates, let me remind you of the procedure, now. The Secretary is calling people's names, and as he calls your name, you must come up. What name are you calling now, Mr. Secretary?

MR. COOPER: Delegate Rothschild.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Will Kenneth Rothschild from Ward 2 please come to the table and sign the document. Now, would everybody else please sit down so that we can see and here? Delegate Graham, would you sit down? Delegate Moore, would you sit down? Delegate Love -- everybody -- Delegate

Croft, please sit down -- Delegate Feely, Delegate Nahikian, Delegate Schrag, Delegate Kameny, everybody, please sit down. Delegates Johnson and Schrag, will you please sit down? We need some order. This will take a long time.

Would the persons who are having their pictures taken in the back remember that there is a more important procedure, and we have to sign the document? Please, cease and desist taking pictures, and please sit down and let us get the document signed. Delegate Nixon, would you please have a seat, so you can hear your name when it is called? Delegate Oulahan -- Delegate Nixon, the President pleads with you to sit down -- pleads with you, pleads. Delegates Kameny and Oulahan, please, take your seats.

(Delegate Rothschild signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Mr. Secretary, what is the next name, please?

MR. COOPER: Gloria R. Corn.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Gloria Corn, please come to the front, sign the document, and make way for the next person.

A VOICE: You won't let me speak, but I gave you more respects than your delegates do.

(Delegate Corn signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Franklin E. Kameny.

(Delegate Kameny signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Thank you very much for being seated, delegates. Delegates Johnson and Nixon, please, please take your seats.

Delegate Coates, would you be good enough to have a seat at your regular place?

The next person?

MR. COOPER: Delegate Philip G. Schrag.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Schrag?

(Delegate Schrag signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Courts Oulahan.

(Delegate Oulahan signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Brian P. Moore.

(Delegate Brian P. Moore signed the document.)

Ward 4.

(Applause.)

(Delegate Mason signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Janette Boston Harris.

(Delegate Harris signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Jeannette Feely.

(Delegate Feely signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Victoria T. Street.

(Delegate Street signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate William B. Cooper, our esteemed Secretary.

(Delegate Cooper signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Samuel N. Robinson, Ward 5.

(Delegate Robinson signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Norman T. Nixon.

(Delegate Nixon signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Michael S. Marcus.

(Delegate Marcus signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Geraldine D. Warren.

MR. T. MOORE: Mr. President, did you call Moore yet, from Ward 5?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I call Talmadge Lee Moore.

(Delegate Moore signed the document.)

(Delegate Warren signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Charlotte Holmes.

(Delegate Holmes signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Chestie Marie Graham.

(Delegate Graham signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Janice Elaine Eichorn.

(Delegate Graham signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Howard R. Croft.

(Delegate Croft signed the document.)

MR. COOPER: Delegate James W. Baldwin.

(Delegate Baldwin signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate William Blount.

(Delegate Blount signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate David Maurice Barnes.

(Delegate Barnes signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Will everybody be seated once more, now? There are people who want to take pictures, and they can't take pictures while we are moving around. Would everybody be seated so that you can be included in the multitudes of pictures which are now being taken?

Delegate Sandra Ford Johnson.

(Delegate Johnson signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate James E. Terrell.

(Delegate Terrell signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Mildred J. Lockridge.

(Delegate Lockridge signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Absalom Frederick Jordan, Jr.

(Delegate Jordan signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Theresa Howe Jones.

(Delegate Jones signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Gwendolyn Blake
Paramore.

(Delegate Paramore signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate James E. Coates.

(Delegate Coates signed the document.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: All right. Delegates, we have allowed even the recalcitrants to sign, hoping this will influence their performance.

Ladies and gentlemen, will all delegates be seated now, so that we can complete the agenda? Delegate Coates, Kameny, Jackson, Bruning, Nixon, Robinson -- and will those in the back come back so we can finish our agenda? Delegate Clarke, it would really help if you would sit down, now. You can be interviewed later on. Delegate Talmadge, please be seated. Delegate Barnes, would you come in and be seated.

Chestie Graham, do you have the cover sheet?

MS. GRAHAM: Yes.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Would you bring that forward, please? Would all other delegates please be seated. Now that all delegates are seated, may we please have order, so that we can complete the agenda?

The Constitution for the new State of New Columbia

has been signed. It will now be attested to by the representative from the Board of Elections, whose name is Charmain Mason.

MS. MASON: I, Charmain Mason, being duly sworn disposed and affirmed, say that the signatures ascribed and affirmed before me this 29th day of May, 1982, are those of qualified electors of the District of Columbia and are those of certified Delegates to the District of Columbia State Constitutional Convention.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Thank you very much.

We have a series of announcements. First of all, want to indicate that we have had the benefit of a donation catering service from Georgetown Cookies and Caterers.

MR. LONG: Point of order, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes, your point of order.

MR. LONG: Number 11 on the document is transmiss. of the document.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Well, sure, but of course, we will not transmit the document at this particular point. Of course, you could take it on over to the District Building, but I think we will have to finish what we are doing here, and at some appropriate time when we leave, it will be taken

The arrangement we have is that this is delivered to the Mayor; the Mayor then shares it with the City Council and then it is given to the Board of Election for placement on the docket.

MR. LONG: But we must instruct the Board of Elections on how to present it to the ballot.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I don't understand what you are saying.

MR. LONG: Yes.

MR. BARNES: Would you please use the microphone?

MR. T. MOORE: Point of order.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: State your point of order.

MR. T. MOORE: I just want to know if the people who are absent today -- I don't think we have all the delegates here -- are they going to be given the chance to sign that document if they so desire?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: There is no penalty for not being present.

MR. T. MOORE: I was just asking the question.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes.

MR. LONG: Many of the statehood constitutional conventions actually have a committee, especially assigned to the duty of deciding how the transmission and presentation of

the document is going to be made. This is not a straight-forward matter, and there have been extreme variations. For that reason, I wish to address that process in a motion. Will you consider that motion to be in order?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: No, I don't think that is going to be in order, because our Executive Committee has to meet and agree on the procedure, and that procedure should be outlined in the statehood initiative. The City Council has amended that initiative. The Mayor has indicated in his document that he would like to have it come to him and that he will transmit it.

Therefore, let the Executive Committee find out what the appropriate thing is to do regarding the legislation that we have, and we will be glad to share that with the group.

MR. LONG: The legislation we have has no provision for the presentation on the ballot.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Well, I suggest that rather than a motion from the body, that this is the sort of thing that the Executive Committee should determine and then make a recommendation to the body.

Yes?

MRS. MASON: Mr. President, I appreciate Delegate Long's efforts, but it seems to me that the initiative did not say

(inaudible) --

MR. LONG: But it's the way it appears on the ballot which is the point in question. This is not a simple question. Many conventions have considered it on a "Yes/No" vote; others have minor questions --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Well, I suppose the Board of Elections can present it in such a way that it is not clear, or indeed, it simply is not presented in its best light.

Delegate Mason?

MRS. MASON: Mr. President, I think that what we could do is to carry the Executive Committee -- because we have not dissolved -- they will not dissolve unless we vote to dissolve.

So what we could do, we have a Statehood Commission we still have a delegation, our committees are not dissolved unless we vote to dissolve them, and the President still has the power. It seems to me we have gone through with everything for today, and we can decide on -- we can decide on it separately --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I think that is what he is talking about. He wants to make certain that the wording is such that it is not confusing. We had problems with that respect.

Delegate Long, I think your point is well-taken. I don't know that at this point, when we are about to move in festivites and so forth, that this is the time for us to be designing that as the Committee as a whole. If you would have faith that the Executive Committee will do that in due course and confer with you, if you would like.

MR. LONG: I would prefer to bring it back to the body sometime before it actually goes, or before instructions go to the --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I think that we may be involved in litigation and everything else, so we should have the support of the body.

Thank you very much.

Announcements?

MS. HARRIS: Point of information, please.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: In line with that discussion, do you want to indicate at this point when the Executive Committee will meet, so we will know, or do you just want to call us, and we'll meet in order to discuss the transmittal?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I don't really want to mention that now. We should meet next week, early next week. Monday is a holiday, so Tuesday or Wednesday. It will be safe right here in the meantime.

Delegate Paramore, an announcement?

MS. PARAMORE: This is not really an announcement; it is a dedication that I would like to dedicate to the delegates. It is a poem that I have written to you.

"Dedicated to the District of Columbia, Constitutional, illustrious Delegates.

"Delegates, delegates, the time has come;

'The Constitution written in total sum.

You all have worked diligently from your hearts,
Right from the inevitable start.

For the people, you have well performed your task.
All your efforts are now unmasked.

Let's press on to finish our strenuous job,
And relinquish not a sob.

You have created a new State --
Proud you must be to date.

The wits about you have addressed

Serious and vital issues,

Never minor nor delicate as a tissue.

New Columbia, our cocoon of birth,

You will become the 51st unit of worth.

To you, we shall be true.

This Constitution of love addresses your needs.

The delegates have achieved this in their deeds.

Delegates, delegates, of honorable will,

You have exhibited your master mind skills.

A courageous document to be ratified,

And I know you will see that it shall not be denied

Fifty-first State delegates of honorable due,

I stand ready to salute you."

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Paramore, would you be averse to having that entered into the record?

MS. PARAMORE: No.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Fine. Thank you very much.

Delegate Street?

MS. STREET: Fellow delegates, on Tuesday morning at 10 a.m., all of those who have volunteered to help with the Constitutional history of this Convention will meet here - Tuesday morning, 10 a.m.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Earlier on, I mentioned that the most important people in this process were the elevator operators, who not only got us up and down, but sometimes stayed as late as 3:00. I want to remind you that they really became a part of this Convention. If you will recall, they

talked to us about what was going on; they took an interest they made suggestions. Somebody was even standing in the doorway, applauding, the other night when we were making the elegant speeches supporting the Constitution.

What they have done is to express their concern and their feelings for what we are doing, and they have given us a Certificate of Hospitality, and it says, "Mr. Wong R. Butler presents to the President and the Delegates of the D.C. Statehood Convention, with this Certificate of Hospitality, thank you for being so warm, so gracious, and so thoughtful. I appreciate the efforts you made to make sure everything was perfect.

"Because you treat your guests, to well, make them feel comfortable, and provide such a warm, hospitable atmosphere, you deserve this Certificate of Hospitality. Thank you for the wonderful time I had being with you.

"Signed, Wong R. Butler, May 29th, 1982."

Is Mr. Butler here?

A VOICE: He is on the elevator.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Marcus?

MR. MARCUS: Earlier on, you mentioned that delegates will have time to enter comments into the record. What is that time period?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I think we could establish a period of a week or so.

MR. MARCUS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: That would give you an opportunity to frame your thoughts, put them together.

Delegate Mason?

MS. EICHORN: Can I ask a quick question?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: A question?

MS. EICHORN: I wondered if we could call Thelma Blackwell out here for a round of applause, for feeding us so well.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: We can, and did.

MRS. MASON: Mr. President, with the naming of the people who have been very cooperative in this building, I know we meant to include the housekeepers. We have Mrs. Comfort back there. Would you raise your hand, please? I just want the delegates to see you. She works very hard.

(Applause.)

MRS. MASON: Mrs. Comfort is from Nigeria. She has three children and one son in pre-med at Howard University and works two jobs to keep them in school.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Simmons?

MS. SIMMON: I just know that there are a number of people here who are friends of someone who has worked hard in public schools, who passed yesterday, and that is Katherine Mackie. And I know you have been too busy to get that information, and the funeral will be on Wednesday. She has done an outstanding job for our children, and Title I, in particular.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Thank you very much.

Anybody else?

Delegate Clarke?

MR. CLARKE: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, as one of the delegates who likes to eat, I would like the Convention to express its thanks to Ms. Thelma Blackwell.

MS. HARRIS: We did.

MR. CLARKE: Oh, you did. I would also like to indicate my own personal appreciation for the assistance of my aide, Mr. Higginbotthome, who worked all night last night to xerox materials.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Coates?

MR. COATES: And finally, sir, to all the wives,

husbands, boyfriends and girlfriends.-- who did so much that we might produce so little.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Careful, now. May those relationships remain stable.

Delegate Harris, Delegate Robinson.

MS. HARRIS: If there are no other delegates who wish to speak --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: There are some others.

Delegate Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: I believe that what I am about to ask would be beneficial to all the delegates. I should like to know from the Chair when can each delegate receive an official transcript of all the proceedings of this Convention? I have noticed that certain people do, in fact -- may I please have the floor -- I have noticed that certain people do have in their possession transcripts of proceedings here. I should like to know when can all delegates receive a copy of the transcripts of this Convention.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: The answer is "Never".

Delegate Jones?

MR. ROBINSON: Why is that?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Jones will indicate to

you.

MS. JONES: Delegate Robinson, the transcripts are public record. We will be sitting down and deciding what the cost of it will be to you if you would like to have one, because we do not have the money to reproduce those transcripts, and we would be glad to reproduce them for you if you provide us with the money.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Street?

MS. STREET: We are relying on each copy of the official transcript for the history --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Street, what she has indicated is that we do have official copies.

MS. STREET: But no transcripts have been sent out of this --

PRESIDENT CASSELL: No. No transcripts have been. Let me make this clear. Delegate Street, as the historian, you need, certainly, the first copies, all right? We have not paid to have any copies distributed. What she has simply indicated is they are a matter of public record. If we had the money, we could make them available to the delegates, but we don't.

Delegate Bruning?

MR. BRUNING: I just wanted, as a delegate, to

personally express my thanks to the staffing division, particularly Mr. Austin, Ms. Ellington, the secretaries, the word processors who worked so hard, and to the fellow delegates on Style and Drafting, who I think put in some monumental hours to do something I didn't think could be done, and I must say I really appreciate their efforts.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Okay. Let me say that we are planning now to have a celebration at the City Council next Sunday, and we will have appropriate commendations to all of the people who have made our task not only possible, but pleasant and easier.

MS. HARRIS: May I move to adjourn?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: No, not yet.

Delegate Barnes will have the last -- now, Delegate Barnes is trying to blow my cover. I think Delegate Shelton the other day asked if the President was going to buy champagne for everybody. Well, I was very disturbed at that, because I had already planned that, and I was going to lay that on you as a surprise, and I thought she had peeked at my wild card, but she was just saying that.

Well, Delegate Barnes has got just one bottle there, so come on up and do your thing.

MR. T. MOORE: Mr. President, can I ask one thing?

What time will we meet next Sunday, and where, and in what room? We will be notified?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes, this is the celebration at the City Council. We have to work out the details. We don't even have permission to use it yet.

Last order of business, and as soon as we finish this last speaker, we are going into the back, where there is food and champagne for everybody.

MR. BARNES: Fellow Delegates, we have worked hard under impossible constraints of time, money, and support, and I think we are all very tired, and we are ready to end this great occasion.

So, because I only have one bottle, I am asking the President of the Convention, Mr. Cassel, and Ms. Ellington to represent the staff, to share with me some champagne to end this Convention on an official note.

(Applause.)

MR. KAMENY: Mr. President, I move we adjourn.

(The motion was duly seconded.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: It has been moved and seconded that we adjourn until further notice. "Further notice" means sometimes soon.

Discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Those in favor of adjourning, indicate by saying aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Those opposed?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Those abstaining?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Goodbye.

(Whereupon, at 4:00 o'clock p.m., the Convention was adjourned until further notice.)